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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/45/169
12 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 12

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838)]

45/169. International co-operation in solving international problems of a social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/155 of 4 December 1986 and 43/155 of 8 December 1988, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1987/42 of 10 March 1987 1/ and 1989/49 of 7 March 1989, 2/

Conscious that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 5 and corrigenda (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

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Considering that special emphasis should be put on the effective implementation of the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 4/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 4/ and other relevant international instruments,

Convinced that the effectiveness of United Nations human rights instruments would be enhanced by universal adherence to them as well as by strict compliance of States parties with their obligations,

Considering that existing regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the exchange of information and experience in this field, as well as the teaching of human rights, could be further improved,

Emphasizing the necessity for the international community to continue its efforts to take practical measures to prevent mass and flagrant violations and all other violations of human rights, including all forms of discrimination based on distinctions of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, which continue to take place in many parts of the world, contrary to the provisions of international instruments in the field of human rights,

Noting the importance that the promotion and protection of human rights have secured on the international agenda and in relations between States,

1. Calls upon Member States to implement fully the universally recognized international standards for the promotion and protection of human rights enshrined, in particular, in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments;

2. Urges all States to co-operate fully with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world;

3. Considers that such co-operation will make an effective and practical contribution to the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

4. Expresses its conviction that the promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the implementation of universally recognized human rights standards, are particularly important for all countries;

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

4/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

5. Urges Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the various international instruments in the field of human rights;

6. Recognizes the value of common efforts by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at international, regional, bilateral and national levels in the field of human rights;

7. Considers that the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights would contribute to the promotion and improvement of understanding of human rights;

8. Emphasizes that the wide dissemination of information on human rights and the teaching of human rights are important tasks and would contribute to the implementation of universally recognized international human rights standards;

9. Decides to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-seventh session under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

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A/RES/45/170
21 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 12

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838)]

45/170. The situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, 3/

Aware of its responsibility to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and resolved to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Condemning the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 by the military forces of Iraq,

Noting with grave concern that the Iraqi forces in occupied Kuwait continue to commit acts of violence, leaving large numbers of victims and causing enormous human suffering to the civilian population,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

Noting also with grave concern that the treatment of prisoners of war and detained civilians in occupied Kuwait does not conform to the internationally recognized principles of humanitarian law,

Expressing grave concern at the continued refusal of Iraq to receive representatives of humanitarian organizations, especially representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and a representative of the Secretary-General, to help in extending humanitarian assistance to the Kuwaiti people under occupation,

1. Condemns the Iraqi authorities and occupying forces for their serious violations of human rights against the Kuwaiti people and third-State nationals and, in particular, the continued and increasing acts of torture, arrests, summary executions, disappearances and abduction in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenants on Human Rights, other relevant human rights instruments and the relevant instruments of humanitarian law;

2. Affirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 4/ applies to Kuwait and that as a high contracting party to the Convention Iraq is bound to comply fully with all its terms and in particular is liable under the Convention in respect of the grave breaches committed by it, as are individuals who commit or order the commission of such breaches;

3. Expresses its serious concern about the systematic dismantling and pillaging of and attacks on the economic infrastructure of Kuwait, which seriously undermine the present and future enjoyment by the Kuwaiti people of their economic, social and cultural rights;

4. Expresses its grave concern at the living conditions in occupied Kuwait, especially those of women, children, elderly and third-State nationals, which are becoming increasingly difficult;

5. Expects Iraq to guarantee respect for international standards applicable under international law, in particular with reference to the protection of the civilian population, and demands that Iraq co-operate fully with and give access to Kuwait to representatives of humanitarian organizations, especially the International Committee of the Red Cross, working to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in occupied Kuwait;

6. Also expects Iraq to comply with its obligations under the Charter and international law in respect of third-State nationals, and demands that Iraq release all nationals of third States;

7. Urges Iraq to treat all prisoners of war and detained civilians in accordance with the internationally recognized principles of humanitarian law and to protect them from all acts of violence, including ill-treatment, torture and summary execution;

4/ Ibid., No. 973.

8. Condemns the rejection by Iraq of the offer of the Government of Kuwait to send humanitarian assistance, especially medicine, to the Kuwaiti people under occupation;

9. Requests the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session to consider the situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait;

10. Decides to keep under consideration the situation of human rights in occupied Kuwait.

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18 December 1990

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A/RES/45/171
21 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 12

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838)]

45/171. Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/157 of 15 December 1989, in which it, inter alia, requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue to organize and implement an effective programme of educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees from South Africa and Namibia who had been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Noting with appreciation that some of the projects recommended in the report continue to be successfully implemented,

Noting with concern that the discriminatory and repressive policies that continue to be applied in South Africa cause a continued and increasing influx of student refugees into Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe,

Conscious of the burden placed on the limited financial, material and administrative resources of the host countries by the increasing number of student refugees,

Appreciating the efforts of the host countries to deal with their student refugee populations, with the assistance of the international community,

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1/ A/45/448.

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe for granting asylum and making educational and other facilities available to the student refugees, in spite of the pressure that the continuing influx of those refugees exerts on facilities in their countries;

3. Also expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the co-operation that they have extended to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on matters concerning the welfare of the refugees;

4. Notes with appreciation the financial and material support provided for the student refugees by Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, other bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

5. Requests the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue to organize and implement an effective programme of educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees from South Africa, who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

6. Also requests the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue the sponsorship of Namibian students still studying under programmes of the High Commissioner until they complete their studies;

7. Urges all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue contributing generously to the assistance programme for student refugees, through financial support of the regular programmes of the High Commissioner and of the projects and programmes, including unfunded projects, that were submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984; 2/

8. Also urges all Member States and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist the countries of asylum materially and otherwise to enable them to continue to discharge their humanitarian obligations towards refugees;

9. Appeals to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and all other competent United Nations bodies, as well as other international and non-governmental organizations, to continue providing humanitarian and development assistance so as to facilitate and expedite the settlement of student refugees from South Africa who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

2/ See A/CONF.125/1, para. 33.

10. Calls upon agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to continue co-operating with the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner in the implementation of humanitarian programmes of assistance for the student refugees in southern Africa;

11. Requests the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue to keep the matter under review, to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1991, of the current status of the programmes and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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21 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838)]

45/172. Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 2/ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2/ as well as the humanitarian rules laid down in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 3/ and Additional Protocol II thereto, of 1977, 4/ instruments through which States have undertaken to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations entered into under those international instruments,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/77 of 7 March 1990 5/ which extended the mandate of the Special Representative for

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

4/ Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17513.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

another year and requested him to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session,

Taking into account the commitments made by the Central American Presidents in various joint statements with a view to the promotion of, respect for and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting that, in accordance with Security Council resolution 637 (1989) of 27 July 1989, the Secretary-General has continued to provide his good offices for the holding of talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the armed conflict in El Salvador throughout 1990 and by the recent escalation of violence initiated by the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional, a situation which continues to beleaguer the civilian population, as a result of air raids, the use of explosive devices in urban areas, and attacks on the economic infrastructure,

Taking note of the results achieved in the rounds of negotiations conducted so far, in particular the agreement signed by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional at Geneva on 4 April 1990 6/ and the agreement signed at Caracas on 21 May 1990, 7/ which establishes an agenda and a schedule for negotiations designed to achieve the initial objective of political agreements for arranging a halt to the armed confrontation and any acts that infringe the rights of the civilian population,

Welcoming the Agreement on Human Rights, signed by the two parties at San José on 26 July 1990, 8/ containing commitments concerning the respect for and guarantee of human rights to be effective immediately, and containing the terms of reference for the United Nations human rights verification mission,

Concerned that, despite the reduction in the number of violations of human rights and despite the efforts made by the two parties to improve the situation of human rights, numerous and serious politically motivated violations of human rights and of the humanitarian rules of warfare persist in El Salvador,

Concerned also that many sources continue to attribute summary executions and other serious violations of human rights to the so-called "death squads",

1. Commends the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights for his report on the situation of human rights in El Salvador, 9/ endorses the

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6/ See A/45/706-S/21931, annex I.

7/ Ibid., annex II.

8/ A/44/971-S/21541, annex.

9/ A/45/630.

recommendations contained therein and requests him to update the report in the light of the situation in that country;

2. Expresses its satisfaction with the signing of the agreement at Geneva on 4 April 1990 between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional, which sets in motion a negotiating process under the auspices and with the active participation of the Secretary-General, with a view to ending the armed conflict through political means as speedily as possible, promoting the democratization of the country, guaranteeing unrestricted respect for human rights, and reunifying the Salvadorian society;

3. Notes that the two parties, when adopting the general agenda for the negotiating process at Caracas on 21 May 1990, agreed that the initial objective would be, first, to secure political agreements on the armed forces, human rights, the judicial system, the electoral system, constitutional reform, the economic and social problems, and verification by the United Nations and, secondly, to achieve agreements for arranging a halt to the armed confrontation and any acts that infringe the rights of the civilian population, all of which will have to be verified by the United Nations subject to the approval of the Security Council;

4. Expresses its profound satisfaction with the Agreement on Human Rights, adopted at San José on 26 July 1990, during the third round of talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional, which constitutes the first substantive agreement between the parties, and urges them to take the action and measures necessary for its implementation;

5. Supports fully the work of intermediation being done by the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative in the search for a negotiated political solution to the Salvadorian conflict;

6. Urges the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional to make the greatest possible effort to implement all the political agreements announced at Geneva and Caracas, particularly taking into account the proposals of the Secretary-General for facilitating the negotiating process and achieving a just and lasting peace in El Salvador in the shortest possible time;

7. Expresses its deep concern about the persistence of politically motivated violations of human rights in El Salvador, such as summary executions, torture, abductions and enforced disappearances, and about the atmosphere of intimidation in which certain sectors of the population live;

8. Also expresses its deep concern that the capacity of the judicial system continues to be unsatisfactory, as a result of which the competent authorities must accelerate the adoption of the reforms and measures necessary for ensuring the effectiveness of the system;

9. Deplores, therefore, the irregularities in the judicial proceedings in connection with the assassination of the Rector and other members of the Central American University in 1989 and the lack of co-operation on the part of certain

sectors of the armed forces which has impeded full clarification of such an abominable crime and the punishment of the guilty persons, as described in the report of the Special Representative;

10. Renews its appeal to the competent organs and organizations of the United Nations system that, on the basis of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/77 of 7 March 1990 and General Assembly resolution 44/165 of 15 December 1989, they provide the advice and assistance that the Government of El Salvador may request in order to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

11. Requests the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session to consider the situation of human rights in El Salvador, taking into account the evolution of the situation of human rights in that country and developments linked to the implementation of all the agreements adopted by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional, as well as the agreements signed by the Central American Presidents in the context of the regional peace-making process;

12. Requests the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional to continue their dialogue and foster agreements with a view to a firm and lasting peace, and to continue co-operating with the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights;

13. Decides to keep under consideration, during its forty-sixth session, the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador in order to re-examine this situation in the light of the information provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838)]

45/173. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Recalling its resolution 44/163 of 15 December 1989, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/79 of 7 March 1990, 3/

Mindful of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/76 of 7 March 1990, entitled "Co-operation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies" 3/ and Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

Welcoming the two visits paid by the Special Representative of the Commission to the Islamic Republic of Iran during the course of 1990 and the two reports 4/ presented following those visits, which have provided useful information and clarified a number of allegations about the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Noting the findings of the Special Representative on the situation of the Baha'is in the Islamic Republic of Iran,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports submitted by the Special Representative in 1990, including the observations contained therein, and notes with concern the allegations of violations of human rights contained in those reports;

2. Calls upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to intensify its efforts to investigate and rectify the human rights issues raised by the Special Representative, in particular as regards the administration of justice and due process of law in order to comply with international instruments on human rights, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party, and to ensure that all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including religious groups, enjoy the rights recognized in these instruments;

3. Welcomes the decision of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit prisons in the country and urges the competent officials to implement this decision as soon as possible by concluding an agreement in accordance with standard procedures of the Committee;

4. Notes that the co-operation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Special Representative has improved and has included replies by the Government to allegations that have been transmitted to it, and urges the Government to reply in detail to all allegations referred to by the Special Representative in his reports;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to respond favourably, in accordance with the normal practices of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to requests for technical assistance from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to give the Special Representative all the necessary assistance to carry out his mandate;

7. Notes that the Commission on Human Rights will consider the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran at its forty-seventh session and will refer the question, as appropriate, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

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4/ E/CN.4/1990/24 and A/45/697.

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25 March 1991

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838)]

45/174. Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and the humanitarian rules set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 3/ and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, 4/

Aware of its responsibility to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and resolved to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

4/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/37 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council requested the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur to examine the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, with a view to formulating proposals that could contribute to ensuring full protection of the human rights of the inhabitants of the country before, during and after the withdrawal of all foreign forces,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions as well as resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and decisions of the Economic and Social Council,

Taking note in particular of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/53 of 6 March 1990, 5/ in which the Commission decided to extend the mandate of its Special Rapporteur for one year and requested him to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session or the situation of human rights in Afghanistan,

Emphasizing the relevance and validity for all parties concerned of the Agreements on the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan, concluded at Geneva on 14 April 1988, 6/ which constitute an important step towards a comprehensive political solution,

Noting with deep concern that a situation of armed conflict persists in Afghanistan, that acts of terrorism against civilians have significantly increased, that the treatment of prisoners detained in connection with the conflict does not conform to the humanitarian rules set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, that more than five million refugees are living outside Afghanistan and that many Afghans are displaced within the country,

Aware that the reasons given by the refugees for not returning to Afghanistan pending the achievement of a comprehensive political solution and the establishment of a broad-based government, include the continued fighting in some provinces, the use of very destructive arms in the conflict, the minefields that have been laid in many parts of the country, the lack of an effective authority in many areas and other obstacles that would be encountered by refugees in returning to the country,

Taking note with appreciation of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur 7/ and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. Welcomes the co-operation of the Afghan authorities with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan;

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ S/19835, annex I.

7/ A/45/664.

2. Welcomes the co-operation that the Afghan authorities have extended in particular to the Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes Relating to Afghanistan, and to international organizations such as the specialized agencies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

3. Welcomes the fact that the Special Rapporteur was able to visit areas in Afghanistan not under government control;

4. Urges all parties concerned to work for the achievement of a comprehensive political solution based on the free exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of Afghanistan through democratic procedures acceptable to the people, including free and fair elections, and the creation of conditions conducive to the return of refugees to their homeland in safety and honour and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all Afghans;

5. Also urges all parties to the conflict to respect the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population, to protect all prisoners from acts of reprisals and violence, including ill-treatment, torture and summary execution, to transmit to the International Committee of the Red Cross the names of all prisoners, and to grant to that Committee unrestricted access to all parts of the country and the right to visit all prisoners in accordance with its established criteria;

6. Calls upon the Afghan authorities to investigate thoroughly the fate of persons who have disappeared, to apply amnesty decrees equally to foreign detainees, to reduce the period during which prisoners await trial, to treat all prisoners, especially those awaiting trial or those in custody in juvenile rehabilitation centres, in accordance with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, 8/ and to apply to all convicted persons article 14, paragraphs 3 (d) and 5, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 2/

7. Notes with concern the allegations of atrocities committed against Afghan soldiers, civil servants and captured civilians;

8. Expresses its concern at reports that the living conditions of refugees, especially those of women and children, are becoming increasingly difficult because of the decline in international humanitarian assistance;

9. Urgently appeals to all Member States, humanitarian organizations and all parties concerned to co-operate fully, especially on the subject of mine detection, in order to facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes in safety and honour, in conformity with the Agreements on the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan;

8/ See Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1).

10. Urgently appeals to all Member States and humanitarian organizations to promote the implementation of the projects envisaged by the Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes Relating to Afghanistan and the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, especially the pilot projects for the repatriation of refugees;

11. Urges all parties concerned to extend their full co-operation to the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

13. Decides to keep under consideration, during its forty-sixth session, the situation of human rights in Afghanistan in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

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